



The State A-F Accountability System

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Background

- The A-F system was adopted during the lame duck period of 2018 (Public Act 601 of 2018)
- A-F required MDE to create a school grading system based on 8 indicators.
- The intent was to improve the educational ranking of Michigan, but in reality the system is redundant and pales in comparison to the School Index system.



A-F: A Duplicative System

- The A-F system is duplicative – Michigan already has the Every Student Success Act (ESSA) compliant School Index System for Accountability which meets federal legislative requirements
- The state A-F system was legislated without review of alignment to federal ESSA requirements
- The A-F system cannot be used as a single system for Michigan to meet federal requirements



Alternative Education Campuses

- A-F exempts the following schools from label and identification:
 - Center programs
 - Strict discipline academies
 - Programs for adjudicated youth
 - Schools that serve specialized student populations
- These schools are designated Alternative Education Campuses



Comprehensive Support and Improvement

- ESSA requires all indicators be used in determining Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) schools, but the A-F system does not
- A-F limits schools identified for CSI to no more than 5%, while ESSA requires that states identify schools with low graduation rates in addition to this bottom 5%
- Michigan has both federal-CSI and state-CSI schools putting undue burden on districts to understand



Assessment Participation Exemptions

- Federal requirement allows English Learner students, in their first year in a U.S. public school, to skip a state's ELA assessment
- A-F exempted students with disabilities from testing requirements, which is a violation of federal law
ESSA Sec 1111(2)(B) & ESSA Sec 1111(c)(1)(2)(C)



Public School Academy (PSA/Charter) School Accountability Summarized

- The current Charter School Law holds charter schools accountable to the A-F system.
- We support the recommendation to maintain these accountability requirements in the same form and manner, except now as measured by the federally required School Index system.



State A-F System Results

- Four cycles: 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22
 - Partial results in 2019-20 and 2020-21
- 2021-22 included 3,370 schools
 - 43 total low-performing schools identified (1.4%)
 - 338 Alternative Education Campus (AEC) schools were exempted
 - Only six low-performing schools were identified by A-F that were not already identified by the School Index System

Federal School Index System Results

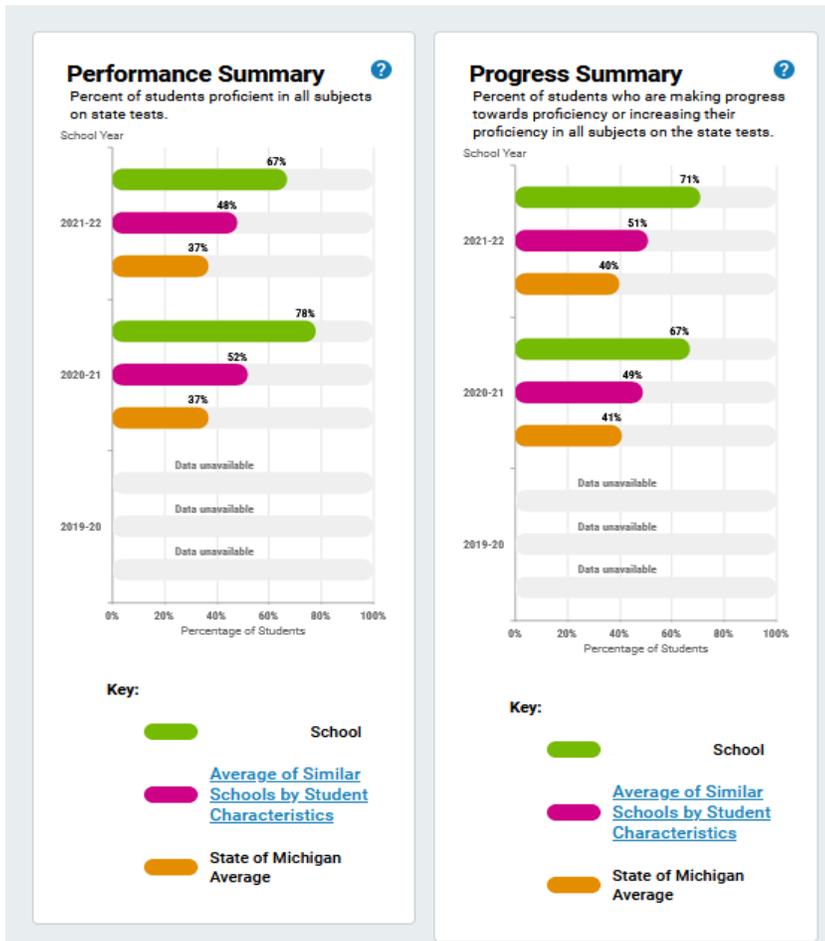
- Four cycles: 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2021-22
 - Federal waivers for 2019-20 and 2020-21
- 2021-22 included 3,370 schools
 - 461 schools were identified across all three support categories (13.7%)
 - 255 schools were identified for CSI supports (7.6%)
 - 72 of the 255 School Index CSI schools were alternative education schools
 - 218 schools identified for CSI by the School Index were not identified for CSI by the A-F system
 - 65 of the 218 are alternative schools

Comparison of Reports

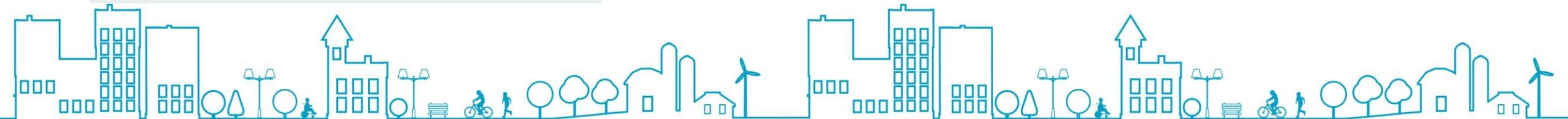
- Reports available on MI School Data (www.mischooldata.org)
- Each system includes an overview page
- School Index provides additional levels of detail for further analysis and context



Information for Parents



- Parent Dashboard was built by parents for parents and unveiled in January 2018
- Parent focus groups drove the dashboard's content
- Much of the information provided by the A-F system is already available through the Parent Dashboard in more detail



Thank you for your leadership and partnership as we work together to ensure that we dedicate the most time possible to our students in the classroom.

